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| ARA ID                                                                                                          |              |       |          | AIRG                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | RAM                  | 1 Pool 33-4 Ball-11                            |  |
| EUR                                                                                                             | EA           | NEA   | cυ       | Original to be Filed in                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Decentralized Files. | FILE DESIGNATION                               |  |
| INR                                                                                                             | E B          | P     | 10       | 95.44 T                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | NCLASSIFIED -        | A-144                                          |  |
| 3                                                                                                               | FBÓ          | AID   | SY       | HANDLING INDICATOR                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | TATE                 | NO.                                            |  |
| ا <u>د</u><br>ابا/ع                                                                                             | SCI          | Cot   | 0        | TO : Department of Sta                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | M 1972               | GD/H                                           |  |
|                                                                                                                 | <del>,</del> | ž     | 545      | PRIORITY 1/1/                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                      |                                                |  |
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| AGR                                                                                                             | ID<br>TAR    | FRB   | INT      | FROM: Amconsul NASSAU<br>E.O.11652: N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ī                    | DATE: July 6, 1973                             |  |
| 6                                                                                                               |              | 4     |          | TAGS: CASC, PFOR, BF                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                      |                                                |  |
| AIR                                                                                                             | ARMY         | 10    | OSD      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ent - Cuban-Americ   |                                                |  |
| USIA                                                                                                            | کا کا<br>کا  | /b    | DOT      | Г                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                      | Pul 324 but 15                                 |  |
| STR                                                                                                             | HEW          |       |          | Attached is a report by Bahamian police of a shooting incident                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |                                                |  |
|                                                                                                                 |              | C. 6  |          | the report notes, since the incident occurred outside Bahamian                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |                                                |  |
| SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION                                                                                          |              |       |          | territorial waters, local police involvement was confined to ensuring that a wounded fisherman received medical attention.                                                                                                                 |                      |                                                |  |
|                                                                                                                 |              |       |          | This post served as liaison between the U.S. Coast Guard emergency center in Florida and police officials in Nassau in transmitting initial information concerning the incident and advising of Coast Guard medical evacuation activities. |                      |                                                |  |
|                                                                                                                 |              |       |          | SPEAR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                      |                                                |  |
|                                                                                                                 |              |       |          | Encl.1 - Report by Bahamas Police of shooting incident                                                                                                                                                                                     |                      |                                                |  |
|                                                                                                                 |              |       |          | ·                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                      |                                                |  |
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|                                                                                                                 |              |       |          | 3-70 DS -323                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | CLASSIFIED           |                                                |  |
| Drofted by:<br>POL:WR Sali                                                                                      |              |       | R Sal:   | sbury:cjg / Draffing Date: 07/05/7                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                      | s and Classification Approved by: EN: MJ Spear |  |
| CON: M Groeneweg Min                                                                                            |              |       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                      |                                                |  |
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replied "Sure I will fight seven (7) days a week". The captain of the "Comodoro" then told him to get his rifle ar they would not be fighting with their fists. At the same time, a shot was fired from the "Comodoro" so he got his .33 rifle and fired back. At the same time, someone on the "Early Bird" started shooting with an automatic weapon. When the battle was over he noticed that Antonio Gonzales a crew member on his boat was hit twice in the cheat by bullets. He then left the area for Bimini to get medical help.

4. According to captain Jose the shooting took place sixteen (16) miles East of Bimini and when the United States Coast Guard arrived all vessels had left the area of the incident.

5. Statements were recorded from Captain Jose and his crew.

6. This incident occurred well outside of our territorial and fishing areas, and I ordered that all concerned proceed to their home port where what ever

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THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

Regard

Nassau, Bahamas

MARINE DIVISION

Your reference

TO: Commissioner of Police - through Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Our reference Pol. Ma. D/C/14/2

Pate 21st June, 1973

Subject: SHOOTING INCIDENT - AMERICAN - CUBAN FISHERMEN.

On Wednesday, 20th June, 1973 at 11:10 a.m., I accompained by Corporal Miller and Constable Ferguson left Nassau by Police Aircraft for Bimini to investigate reports into an alledgacgum battle involving three (3) boats off Bimini Island.

- 2. At 12:08 p.m., we landed at South Rimini where I met a United States Coast Guard Aircraft. I spoke with Lieutenant John McDonald, captain of the Coast Guard Aircraft who reported to me that two (2) injured American Cuban fishermen had been airlifted by one of their helicopter from one of two (2) American fishing vessels which was then on a bearing Oble and nine (9) miles off Bimini. He said that the third vessel had just arrived at Bimini and they were standing by to airlift a third man that was reported to be on the vessel that entered Bimini.
- The Lieutenant and my party went to northern Rimini where I saw the fishing vessel La-Guajra F971A-SA.C.135 tied up at the government pier. I spoke with the captain who gave his name as Jose Antonio Magueria of 101 South West 25 Road, Florida, who told me that one of his crew was injured and was presently being treated at the Government Clinic. He further stated that on Saturday, 16th June, 1973, he with a crew of three (3) left Miami to fish and collect two-hundred (200) fish traps that they put down in the area of Mackey Shoel. When they got in the area where their fish traps were surposed to be, they found that all were missing. In the area they found the fishing vessel "Comodoro" also out of Florida with a few of their markers on her deck. He went alongside the "Comodoro" and boarded her after accusing the captain of removing his fish traps. After an argument between the two captains they agreed to have a fist fight. After the fist fight, he went back on his vessel and decided to follow the "Comodoro" where ever it went in the hope of locating his fish pots. This went on through Wednesday, 20th June, 1973 when at about 8:00 a.m., the "Comodoro" who had steamed toward the Isaacs returned accompained by another Florida fishing vessel "Early Bird." The captain of the "Comodoro" asked him if he had found his fish pots to which he replied no. The "Early Bird" and the "Comodoro" then flanked his vessel (one on either side) and the captain of the "Comodoro) asked him if he wants to fight again to which he replied "Sure I will fight seven (7) days a week". The captain of the "Comodoro" then told him to get his rifle as they would not be fighting with their fists. At the same time, a shot was fired from the "Comodoro" so he got his .33 rifle and fired back. At the same time, someone on the "Early Bird" started shooting with an automatic weapon. When the battle was over he noticed that Antonio Gonzales a crew member on his boat was hit twice in the cheat by bullets. He then left the area for Bimini to get medical help.
- 4. According to captain Jose the shooting took place sixteen (16) miles East of Bimini and when the United States Coast Guard arrived all vessels had left the area of the incident.
- 5. Statements were recorded from Captain Jose and his crew.
- 6. This incident occurred well outside of our territorial and fishing areas, and I ordered that all concerned proceed to their home port where what ever

- 2 -
- 7. I accompained Antonio Gonzeles to the United States Cosst Aircraft after he was treated at Rimini and he was flown to the U. S. A., for further treatment. I told the captain of the "La-Guajira" that he was free to take his vessel back to the United States.
- 8. The other two (2) vessels mentioned were already on their way for Florida under escort of a Coast Guard vessel.

L. W. Major, Marine Assistant Commissioner of Police.

LWM/11

Encs.

Royal Bahames Police Force, Bimini Division. 20th June, 1973

NAME:

- T. A.

Antonio Gonzalez.

ADDRESS:

101 South West, 25 Road, Miami Florids.

AGE:

20 years.

OCCUPATION: Fisherman.

EX:

Male.

I am a fisherman, a crew member on the "La-guajira" along with STATEMENT: three (3) others. On Saturday, 16th June, 1973, we left Mismi for a fishing trip somewhere in the Bahamas where we had our traps down. I don't know what time we got here in the Bahamas. Sometime around noon on (Monday) Tuesday, 19th June, 1973, while at see which was about 14 to 15 miles south east of Bimini, we met a boat, there by the name of "Comodoro" with about four (4) men on it. We notice that this boat had taken up some of our traps we went towards the boat, where Jose Antonio Magueira went onboard and speak to one of the men about the traps being on his boat. The man refused to talk so Jose hit him about twice and he began to talk, he then told us who had all the traps.

On Wednesday, 20th June, 1973 around 8:00 a.m., this same boat and crew along with another boat and crew came from north east to where we were, a boat was on each side. At first everybody begen talking one of them said that they are going for their guns, and told us to go for our guns. One of the men at this time was pointing a gun at us it was a rifle, both boats crews were shooting after us, after they started shooting Jose got his gum and began shooting also during the shooting I got shot in my left arm and left shoulder blade; after the shooting I was brought into Bimini where I had been treeted and discharged. During the shooting two (2) men were injured by Jose, with a .33 winchester, the other boat was the "Early Bird", this was the first time that I had seen these people. We only have one rifle on the boat, we had about two-hundred (200) traps down, but we only found twenty-two (22). I was the one who got the gun and gave it to Jose, when I got shot I was steering the boat, setting away from them. The bullet that caught me come through the glass to the steering wheel: Quite a number of scretches are on the right side of the boat, which was caused by gun shots.

Jose is the captain, but the boat belongs to me, Jose and Jose Menendes the men that were fighting us are Cubans.

This statement is correct.

Signed: Antonio Gonzales.

Cpl. Miller - 20/6/73.

Royal Bahamas Police Force, Bimini Division. 20th June, 1973

NAME :

Jose Menendez.

ADDRESS:

101 South West, 25 Road, Miami Florida.

AGE:

ll years.

OCCUPATION:

Student.

SEX:

Male

STATEMENT: On Wednesday, 20th June, 1973 at about 8:00 a.m., I woke up out of sleep. I heard a lot of shooting. I then made an attempt to go up on the boat deck, my father then told me to stay down in the cabin. My father name is Menendez L Jose I then stayed down in the cabin. I do not know any thing else what happen. The boat I am on name La-Guajira.

This statement is true and correct.

Signed: Jose Menendes, 1:35 p.m.

Jose L. Menendez his father's name.

Cpl. 495 Wallace.

Royal Bahamas Police Force, Bimini Division. 20th June, 1973

NAME:

Jose Antonio Magueira.

ADDRESS:

101 South West, 25 Road, Mismi Florida.

AGE:

33 years.

OCCUPATION: Fisherman.

SEX:

Mele.

I Jose Antonio Magueira wish to make a statement in connection with a shooting incident.

## Signed: A. Nagueira.

On saturday, 16th June, 1973, I left Mismi in my boat "La-Guajira" F.971 ASA C,135 with a crew of three to fish between Mackey Shoal and Bigini.

On Tuesday, 19th June, 1973 I was South East off Bimini Island when another fishing boat by the name of "Comodoro" came by and I discovered that he had some of my fish pots. I went enboard the "Genedoro" and told the captein that he had stolen my fish traps. We then had a fight and then we seperated.

At about 8:00 a.m., todays date, the "Comodero" came back to where I was this time there was another boat along with it, by the name of "Early Bird".

The captain of the "Comodoro" asked me if I want to follow him to the Isaaca, and I told him no. He then asked me if I wanted to fight with hands or gums. I told him that I would fight him with hands or guns. By this time my boat was between the two (2) mentioned boats, and I sew one man on the "Comodoro" with a gun in his hand. He fired a shot and I ducked. I then get my .33 raffle and fired back. Both boats were shooting at my boat and one of my orem was hit in the chest. After the shooting had stopped, I came to Binini to get medical assistant for my injured crew. I cannot say if any one on the other boats got hit by my bullets.

The shooting took place about fifteen to twenty miles from East Bimini. I suspected the captains of the "Early Bird" and the "Comodoro" for steeling two-hundred (200) of my fish pots and that is the reason for us fighting. Apparently my boat was not hit by any bullete. The man on the "Early Bird" was using an automatic weapon.

The above statement was read over to me and it is true and correct.

Signed: A. Magneira.

W. Najor - 2:08 p.m.

Royal Bahamas Police Force, Bimini Division. 20th June, 1973

NAME:

Menendez L. Jose.

ADDRESS:

101 South West, 25 Road, Mismi Florida.

AGE :

li years.

CCUPATION:

Fisherman.

SEX:

Male.

On Wednesday, 20th June, 1973 at about 8:00 .am., two (2) Cuban. boats came alongside the boat I was on. The people on the two (2) boats told us to take out our guns, because they are going to fight. The two (2) beats began to short at our boat. We began to shoot back at them. We kept on going from the two (2) boats and shooting at them while they was shooting back at us. One of our men by the name of Antonio Gonzales got shot in his chest. Antonio only got shot once. We then kept on shooting at the two boats, we do not know whether anyone on the other boats got shot or not, Meone else on the boat I was on got hurt.

When the shooting start, we was about twelve (12) to fourteen (14) miles off from Bimini. I do not know any of the men on the two (2) other bosts that was shooting at us. I cannot tell at present whether the boot was damage or not. The captain of my boat Jose Magueira went over to one of the other boat on Tuesday, 19th June, 1973 and talk to the people on the said boat. I do not know what the captain told the men on the said boat.

This statement is true and correct.

2:05 p.m. Signed: Jose L. Menendes.

Cpl. 495 Wallace.

Further stated, the said boat I am one of the crew, name "La-Guajira". This statement is true and correct.

> Signed: Jose L. Menendes, 2:10 p.m. 20/6/73 Cpl. 495 Wallage.